



Costa Rican Company Wins Second International Award for Innovation and Energy Efficiency

- *Thermal curtains saved up to 70% on gas use for temperature control in poultry farms.*
- *Installation of reflective insulation on LAICA building was first awarded in 2009.*

For the second year running, Costa Rican company Prodex won international award “It’s About Saving Energy” 2010 for innovation and energy efficiency. This award was granted by the Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association International (RIMA) for Prodex Thermal Curtains.

In the category of Livestock Farm Construction, the award was granted in recognition of development, production and installation of thermal reflective insulation curtains on the roof of a 3000ft poultry farm in El Coyol de Alajuela, in November 2009.

“With this product, we have improved farm profitability and reduced poultry mortality by keeping temperature stable –between 32°C [90°F] and 38°C [100°F]– perfect for chicken raising. Therefore, production improves significantly as heat stress and drastic temperature changes are reduced, favoring animal production,” explained Sergio Luconi, Business Manager at Prodex.

As Luconi pointed out, temperature in Costa Rica changes significantly throughout the day, forcing farms to use gas heaters to avoid dramatic impact. Prodex technology in this farm has saved up to 70% on gas use.

“Innovation came from a client requesting thermal reflective insulation on the roof of his farm. Several studies later revealed the problem of heat loss by radiation through the walls, resulting in side and cross-section curtains PADP 5 –a material specially developed for animal production barns,” added Luconi.

These easy-to-handle curtains provide multiple benefits, including temperature control and delivery of the chicken raising process.

About Prodex

Prodex is a domestically owned company and leader in insulation products –hot and cold insulation for any type of building– in Costa Rica for 15 years. It exports 80% of total production mainly to Central America and the United States. Products are also available in Dominican Republic, Trinidad & Tobago, Peru, Canada, Spain, Andorra, and Ecuador, among others. Its production processes meet high quality and service standards, supported by certifications from international organizations and entities.

In 2010, Prodex was granted the Award of Excellence, in Gold Category, by the Chamber of Industries of Costa Rica, in recognition of consolidated and mature processes in the company and ongoing improvement of performance and competitiveness.



"In addition to dramatically reducing temperature change, cross-section curtains divide the room and ensure that small animals do not take up more space than necessary. During the growing process, curtains are drawn open, and the barn gets bigger, reducing excessive heater use and ensuring gas saving and natural light increase by 20%," explained Luconi.

International Award for the Second Year Running

Innovation of this 100% domestically owned company paid off twice, for in 2009, Prodex won RIMA's "It's About Saving Energy" Award in the category of Metal Structure Buildings, for a project to the *Liga Agrícola Industrial de la Caña de Azúcar* (Industrial Sugar Cane Association or LAICA, in Spanish), headquartered in El Coyol de Alajuela, consisting of reflective insulation installation for a Highly Energy Efficient building.

This project required a 20,500m² insulation system to keep moisture to a minimum and temperature stable in the storage facility.

"Sugar in these storage facilities may change color when exposed to temperatures above 30°C [85°F] and lead to coagulation when exposed to high moisture levels, getting ruined. Prodex insulation system controls extreme weather conditions outside, maintains pleasant temperature inside, saves energy by using gas equipment, and ensures sugar is in good condition, thus improving production," observed Luconi.

Luconi said that this award filled the company with pride and satisfaction. "We have competed with top insulation manufacturers worldwide, and we have won this award for two years running. This must encourage the industry in Costa Rica, equipped with the tools and capacity to innovate with excellence and quality," he added.

About RIMA

The Reflective Insulation Manufacturers Association International RIMA is the only trade association representing the reflective insulation, radiant barrier, and interior radiation control coating in America. RIMA activities are guided by an active board of industry members that participate on national and local levels of building code organizations and governmental agencies. The goal is to promote the concept and acceptance of reflective insulation, radiation control coating, and radiant barriers worldwide.

Marina Rodríguez Aymerich
Image and Creative Communication
2283 7101/ 8892 5120
mrodriguez@iccasesores.com